

Community News

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<p>New Listing • Country Home w/3BR - Central H&C • Pecan Trees • New 10x20 Storage Bldg. 1 AC +/- • \$43,500</p>	<p>1027 Sunset Blvd. • 2,804 Sq. ft. • 1.1 AC +/- • 3BR - 2 Baths • Brick Home, Deck, Detached Apartment, Dbl. Garage, Hardwood Floors, Formal LR & DR, Game Room, Central H&C • \$85,900</p>
<p>976 Sunset Blvd. • 3BR - 2 Bath Brick Home • Storage Bldgs. • Quite Neighborhood \$39,900</p>	<p>1133 Neil Grantham Dr. • 3BR - 1 Bath • Alum. Siding • Nice Starter or Retirement Home • \$34,900</p>
<p>933 Winston St. • 1,904 Sq. Ft. 3BR - 3 Bath • Dbl. Car Garage & Deck • 15x30 Stor- age Bldg. • \$84,900</p>	<p>Country Road 349 • 1991 Lib- erty 14x70 Mobile Home on 1/2 Acre Lot • 3BR - 1 Bath \$19,500</p>
<p>Country Home • 2BR Home on 7.5 Acres • Located on Co. Rd. 239 • \$74,900</p>	<p>Country Home • 1 AC +/- Completely Remodeled 2BR - 1 Bath • Freshly painted inter- ior • New Carpet, Vinyl, light fixtures & Ceiling Fans • Real Bargain • \$34,900</p>
<p>Remodeled 987 Morrow 3 BR - 2 Bath • \$47,900</p>	<p>2351 Hickman Ave. • 1470 Sq. ft. Brock house • Nice Storage Bldg. • This Property Is Immaculate!! \$57,900 \$49,900</p>
<p>New Home • On 5.5 AC Just Outside Elba City limits • 3BR - 2 Bath w/Ceramic Tile • Walk-In Master Closet • Beautiful White Cabinets</p>	<p>Brantley, AL • 101 Sasser St. • Brock Home w/3BR • 12x20 Deck • Laundry Room, Stor- age Bldg. & Playhouse \$43,900 \$39,900</p>
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<p>REDUCED! REDUCED! • Two 12- AC Parcels • Co. Rd. 349 • Parcel #1 Reduced To \$1250/AC - parcel #2 Reduced To \$1200/AC</p>	<p>22 AC HORSE FARM • Near New Brookton • Fenced • Horse barn • storage/shop bldg. • 2000 Sq. Ft. Brick Home w/Gunite Pool</p>

Calico Fort Arts & Crafts Fair set for April 15 and 16

The tantalizing aroma of hickory and pine, the smell of candles and herbs, the distant sound of the Indian drums and merry chatter and laughter... have all become a permanent part of Calico Fort Arts and Crafts Fair in Fort Deposit, Alabama.

This twenty-ninth annual Calico Fort is planned to be bigger and better than ever. Scheduled for April 15 and 16, visitors of every age will find something to see, to

buy, to learn and to enjoy.

Exhibitors, approximately 200 from ten states including the Carolinas, Georgia, Wisconsin, Tennessee, Mississippi, New York, Louisiana, Florida, and every part of Alabama, have been specially selected to represent the best artisans and craftsmen in their respective areas.

One can expect to find hand-sewn, painted clothing, wood works, leather goods, rattlesnake skin accessories, stained and beveled glass, pottery, garden statuary, wind chimes, toys of every sort, jewelry designers, pine needle and basket weaving, rockers, chairs, furniture in cypress, twig and vine, bird houses, oil, pen & ink and pastel art and plants of all kinds.

Special attractions include blacksmiths demonstrating their talents, an exhibitor who will demonstrate the fine art of producing delicious home-made ice cream and Elvin King with his chain saw carvings.

Added this year will be a special Children's Area which will include pony rides, train rides, a petting zoo, face painting, Calico balloons, hermit crabs and other exhibitors whose talents are tempting to the

little ones. In this area, the young will even have the opportunity to really pan for gold.

Food, food and more food will be a special treat as the men and women of Fort Deposit prepare tons of chicken and pork barbecue, hot dogs, hamburgers and sweet confections of every sort.

Continuous entertainment is always present in the Fort's natural amphitheater. Featured attractions will include The Southern Comfort Blue Grass Band, the Persimmon Creek Cloggers, Haley Spates, a Christian music vocalist, the Fort Deposit School of Dance performing their routines and International Miss performances scheduled during the two-day event.

Fort Deposit is located thirty miles south of Montgomery and fifteen miles north of Greenville, just off I-65. Signs will mark the route from the Interstate into the Fort. Gates are open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day and admission is \$3.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children.

Make plans now to join in the fun of the twenty-ninth annual event on Saturday and Sunday, April 15 and 16.



Peaches Jackson (left) with Lee E. Dumas (right), manager, was named the client with the most attended days in Adult Day Care. She recently was awarded recognition with a certificate of appreciation.

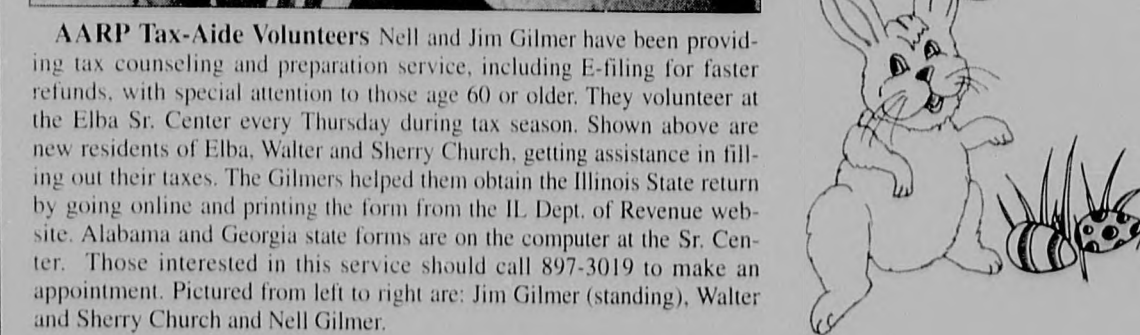
Salutell

National Security's Relay for Life team to sponsor Easter Egg Hunt

National Security's Relay for Life team is sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 15, from 10-11 a.m. The egg hunt will take place at the Veterans Memorial Park area with a \$2 charge per child. There will be two age divisions for ages toddler to 10 years of age. Prizes for the child finding the golden egg and the child with the most eggs. Surprises for each child participating. Hot dogs and drinks will be for sale. In case of rain, the egg hunt will be canceled. All proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society.

Sausage Festival News

For those who love sausage, the City of Elba will definitely be the place to be on Saturday, May 13, as the second annual Old Time County Fair and Sausage Festival will be held. The festival's planning committee is hard at work making plans to ensure a day of fun and food. So, mark those calendars now and look for more details in upcoming issues of The Elba Clipper as the date draws near.



AARP Tax-Aide Volunteers Nell and Jim Gilmer have been providing tax counseling and preparation service, including E-filing for faster refunds, with special attention to those age 60 or older. They volunteer at the Elba Jr. Center every Thursday during tax season. Shown above are new residents of Elba, Walter and Sherry Church, getting assistance in filling out their taxes. The Gilmers helped them obtain the Illinois State return by going online and printing the form from the IL Dept. of Revenue website. Alabama and Georgia state forms are on the computer at the Sr. Center. Those interested in this service should call 897-3019 to make an appointment. Pictured from left to right are: Jim Gilmer (standing), Walter and Sherry Church and Nell Gilmer.

NEWS FROM OUR MILITARY FOLKS

Army Pvt. James M. Estes has entered basic military training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. He is the son of Alice D. and Mike E. Estes of 392 County Road 731.

Enterprise. The private is a 1999 graduate of New Brookton High School.

Army Reserve Sgt. Joseph



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The Elba Clipper

Volume 103, Number 44

50 Cents

Plus 1 Adv. Insert

Jack teenager dies in one-car crash

by Marvin McLwain, Editor

Tragedy struck in Coffee County last Saturday night, April 8, 2000, when a teenage girl was killed in a single-car accident.

Shortly before 11:00 p.m., Coffee County deputies were attempting to stop a vehicle driven by Ms. Kacy Lee Clark for a traffic offense. Ms. Clark's vehicle failed to yield to the deputies and attempted to elude them.

The vehicle Ms. Clark was driving was traveling south on Coffee County Road 209 when she apparently lost control causing the vehicle to crash. Ms. Clark was taken by air ambulance from the scene of the crash to Southeast Medical Center where she died Sunday, April 9, from injuries sustained in the crash.

The incident originated on AL Hwy. 125 when the deputies, on routine patrol, were traveling north on Hwy. 125 north of AL Hwy. 167. They met the Clark vehicle traveling south at a high rate of speed and clocked it with radar at better than 80 miles per hour.

The deputy, in a highly visible marked (reflective markings) sheriff's cruiser with top mounted blue lights, flashed his top lights (blue lights) in an attempt to slow the speeding car. There have been false reports that the deputies were on an unmarked car. When it appeared that the car made no attempt to slow, they turned and began pursuit of the car south on 125.



Kacy Lee Clark

When the vehicle driven by Clark reached the 125/167 intersection, it turned north and accelerated. The deputy, with blue light flashing and siren sounding, attempted to overtake and stop the speeding vehicle. He notified the sheriff's department dispatcher to radio Pike County to the north and alert them as to the situation that he was 10-100 (police code for pursuit of a vehicle) approaching speeds of 100 miles per hour.

Approximately three miles north of the 167/125 intersection, the speeding car attempted to turn west on Co. Rd. 201 but failed to make the turn. According to radio traffic, the deputy attempted to block the path of the vehicle, but the Clark vehicle got by the patrol car and reversed its direction of travel. It

headed back south on 167 toward the 167/125 intersection - again at a high rate of speed.

Just over a mile south, the Clark vehicle veered right off 167 onto Co. Rd. 209 and after traveling between 1 to 2 miles, left the roadway and overturned several times.

Reportedly, Ms. Clark was not wearing a seat belt and was thrown from the vehicle.

Preliminary results of the autopsy performed on Ms. Clark listed the cause of death as blunt force trauma. Also, the preliminary testing of the blood sample taken (standard procedure) from Ms. Clark did not indicate the involvement of drugs or alcohol in the incident.

It should be noted also that blood was drawn from the deputy driving the pursuit car in accordance with department policy.

The accident is being investigated by the 12th Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office, the Alabama Department of Public Safety and the Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences.

Ms. Clark was sixteen and a resident of Jack, Ala. She was a tenth grader at Zion Chapel High School where administrators say she was a popular student involved in many extracurricular and athletic activities. Kacy was a trumpet soloist with the Zion Chapel Rebel Band.

(Please see the obituary section on page 2 for additional family details on Kacy Lee Clark.)



Vehicle which Kacy Clark was driving at the time of the fatal crash

\$1.6 million Elba Nursing Home expansion and renovation project announced

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

Drexel Cook, chairman of the Elba General Hospital and Nursing Home, said Tuesday that a contract has been signed for a \$1,673,000 expansion and renovation of the nursing home. The contract, which was signed the last of March, also includes some remodeling work at



Tim McNamara

the hospital. Work is expected to get underway within a few days. Successful bidder, Don Lewis Construction Co. of Dothan, was holding preconstruction conferences in Elba with subcontractors on Tuesday morning of this week. Completion of the project is scheduled for March 15, 2001.

Architects for the project are Waid McNamara Parrish Architecture of Dothan.

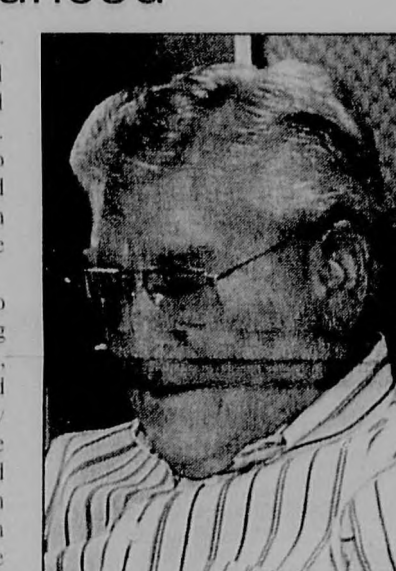
Both Cook and architect Tim McNamara expressed positive attitudes about getting a good bid on the construction and on getting a good contractor to do the work. Cook said that the project will be funded in two ways. First, the hos-

pital board has been working for several years to establish a capital reserve fund and this money will pay a large part of the cost. Arrangements have been made to borrow the balance of the needed funds which will be repaid from normal operating income over the term of the loan.

A 24-bed wing will be added to the nursing home. The new wing will include a new front entrance, new lobby with nursing station and a drive-under canopy at the new front lobby. It will be added at the front of the existing facility, and when completed there will be an enclosed open courtyard between the newly constructed wing and the existing front door of the nursing home. The parking spaces lost here will be added at the north end of the building.

Administrator Ellen Briley said the courtyard will be landscaped and fully developed to give maximum benefit and usage to nursing home residents.

The expansion will only net the nursing home ten additional semi-private beds, giving the facility a total capacity of housing 111 residents. Some existing rooms will be lost where the new wing joins the existing facility and additional rooms inside the facility will be converted to a recreation/activity room and offices. Briley explained that under present Alabama law the nursing home is allowed to add 10% of existing beds without getting a certificate of need from the state governing authority. With the present 101 beds, this expansion



Drexel Cook

fits into that window of 10%. The nursing home is normally full and maintains a waiting list of local citizens needing the care available at the facility.

Another part of the project will be upgrading the mechanical system throughout the nursing home to include individual heating and cooling units in each room. The old original system required all heating (or cooling) to be shut down and supply pipes drained before any cooling (or heating) unit could be started. When weather changed suddenly, or some person required more heating or cooling than others, there was a problem with no immediate solution. The system

Please See EGH&NH Page 3

Robert Stephens seeking re-election to District Three Seat on County Commission

Robert G. Stephens, currently serving as a member of the Coffee County Commission, made it official on qualifying day, March 7, that he would seek re-election to the Commission from District 3.

Stephens, a lifelong resident of Coffee County, is a veteran of World War II, having served four years in the U.S. Air Force as a pilot, including 18 months overseas. He saw action in Italy with the 15th Air Force flying combat missions over Europe.

He is a retired businessman and farmer and is a deacon in the First Baptist Church of Elba. He is a member of the Lions Club, Alabama Cattlemen Association, American Legion, VFW, and Alabama Farmers Federation.

He serves as a director of The Southeast Regional Planning and Development Board, this being the agency handling grants for cities and counties in this area. Coffee County and its cities and towns have been able to receive millions of dollars in grants through assistance of this board.

He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Southern Alabama

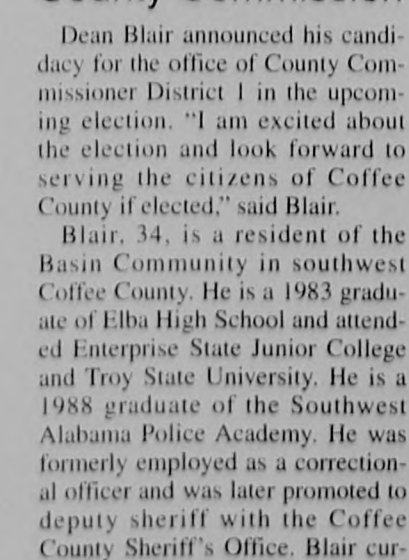


Regional Council for the Aging which is responsible for the Senior Citizens Centers and furnishes money and meals for the operation of this program.

"I have worked hard for the citizens of District 3, as well as all of the citizens of Coffee County during the years that I have served on this board."

Please See STEPHENS Page 3

Dean Blair announces candidacy for County Commission District One Seat



Dean Blair announced his candidacy for the office of County Commissioner District 1 in the upcoming election. "I am excited about the election and look forward to serving the citizens of Coffee County if elected," said Blair.

Blair, 34, is a resident of the Basin Community in southwest Coffee County. He is a 1983 graduate of Elba High School and attended Enterprise State Junior College and Troy State University. He is a 1988 graduate of the Southwest Alabama Police Academy. He was formerly employed as a correctional officer and was later promoted to deputy sheriff with the Coffee County Sheriff's Office. Blair currently is employed with the City of Elba Police Department as the D.A.R.E. Officer for the Elba City Schools. In 1992, he helped implement the first D.A.R.E. Program in the Elba City School System. His accomplishments include being named 1991 Elba Police Officer of the Year, receiving a commendation for heroism from the Governor's Office and Senate of the State of Alabama during the 1998 flood, being a member and serving as the

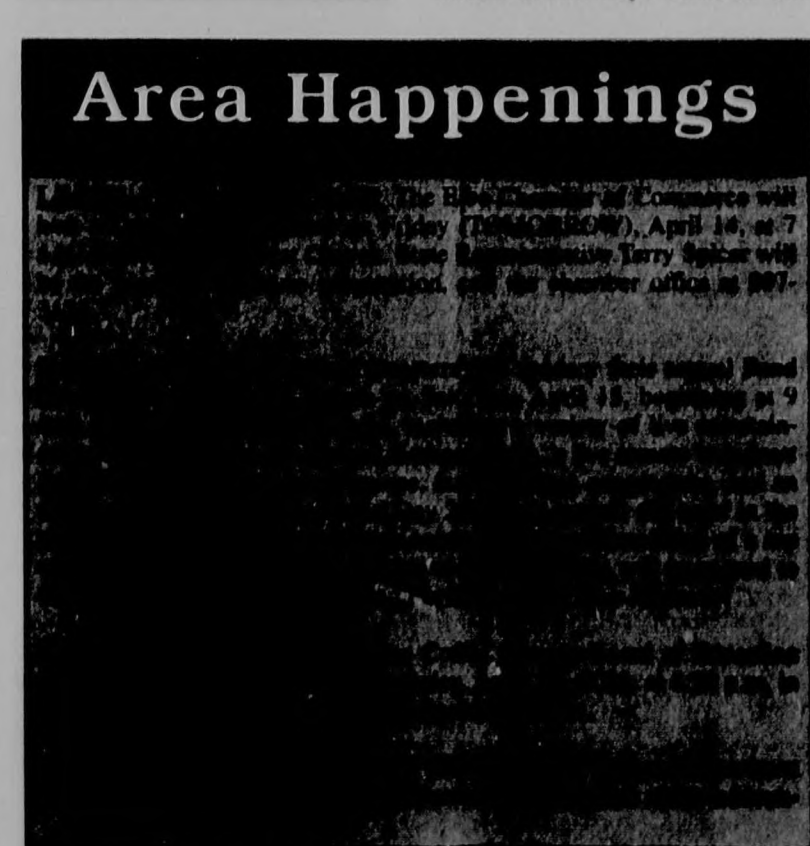


southeast area representative for the Alabama Dare Officers Association, as well as, being elected as vice president for the newly formed S.A.V.E. program for schools in Coffee and Pike counties.

Blair is married to Melonice Boland Blair who is employed by Dorsey Trailers, Inc. as an adminis-

Please See BLAIR Page 3

Area Happenings



EDITORIAL

BRAINSTORMS

With Ferrin Cox

Soccer moms in New York are wary of Hillary Clinton, according to a recent poll. If the spin doctors on her campaign staff get that information and decide the survey is credible, the next pictures people see of Hillary will be at some kid's ballgame dressed like the other soccer moms in the crowd. She will be yelling for the children on both teams and maybe even shelling a pan of fresh peas. Look folks, this is election year and the politicians will do whatever necessary to win.

The big flak in Montgomery this week is over state employees taking taxpayer-owned cars home with them at night. The public doesn't like the state cars being used as private vehicles any more than Coffee County citizens like county cars being used for that purpose. It is amazing to hear different departments in state government defending the practice. One even tries to justify his driving home a state owned pickup truck with statements about "lots of other state employees use it during the day to run errands." We don't think the complaints are about using the vehicles for state business during the day, but about the vehicles going home at night and making those stops at the mall, etc. The pickup truck probably also hauls flowers from the nursery, mowers to the repair shop, bicycles from ball practice... just like it was a personally owned truck. In case the message hasn't gotten through to these people who feel they are owed special privileges, that is exactly what upsets the public.

The newly selected site for the proposed updated post office in Elba has been announced. Mayor James Grimes received a letter Monday from the post office department indicating they wanted to use the property on Claxton Avenue commonly known as the Lake Bonneau property (next to The Peoples Bank). The second choice is across the street and includes the Carney and Martin property. The required 30-day comment period will start as soon as an advertisement starts running in this newspaper.

The case of Elian Gonzalez, the little boy in the battle between the U.S. and Cuba, has gotten completely out of hand. It is no longer a decision over what is best for the little boy, but a battle royal between political groups with Castro and his pride leading one of those groups. Adding to the problem is the fact that the other group doesn't have one central leader, but is a group which can almost be classified as a mob. We would like to see the issue settled like civilized people are supposed to solve things, but that is less and less likely.

Rescue workers are still busy helping victims of the massive flooding in the African country of Uganda while North of there, in the country of Ethiopia, people and their livestock are dying for lack of water during another of their periodic droughts. Of course as they crowd into refugee camps in search of relief, disease runs wild and more people die... first the children and elderly.

The campaign for president of these United States continues between the two men destined to be the nominees of the two major national parties. While neither has been officially nominated, each of their campaigns is directed at the other's weaknesses. George Bush started out the front runner, but Al Gore has pulled into about a tie as they battle toward the November elections. There is some strong feelings that if the economy remains as strong as it has been for the past several years, America will see a Democratic president for the next four years. There will be a lot of money spent this year to decide that issue, but more and more we are coming to support that theory.

There has been a lot of news in recent months about schools statewide (including Elba) being short of money. All this needs to be addressed, and hopefully is being handled as we speak. However it could be a whole lot worse if not for the generosity and goodness in the heart of some school folks. In a conversation with Elba High Principal Danny Weeks this week we discovered his personal lawnmower and weedeater have been being used to keep the campus neat and pretty. Now while we congratulate Mr. Weeks and need more like him, it is probably better the school system not continue to depend on administrators furnishing lawn equipment nor teachers furnishing classroom materials.

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Coffee County & Surrounding Counties - \$17 per year

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Alabama Counties - \$19 per year - including tax

6 months - \$10

Outside Alabama - \$21 per year - 6 months - \$11

Commissioners at odds on pay raise approved by legislature

by Marvin McLwain, Editor

The Coffee County Commission meeting got off to a good start Monday morning and it looked like, with no old business on the agenda, that commissioners would "get it done" in quick fashion. This was not to be.

The topic drawing the most discussion was brought up during the "general business" from commissioners' portion of the meeting.

It all began when Commissioner Bernest Brooks made a motion to adopt the passage of Alabama Legislative Act 2000-108 dealing with salary increases. It was at this time the pay rates of county commissioners, sheriffs, probate judges and revenue commissioners throughout the state.

The legislation has already been passed and signed by the governor; however, each county has to adopt it individually.

According to the bill, revenue to fund the increases will be generated by minor increases in probate fees. After Mr. Brooks' motion was seconded by Chairman Kayo Lewis, it was up for discussion.

Commissioner Robert Stephens commented that there was a lot to discuss.

"The state passed this resolution for a pay raise for all counties and Coffee County has to accept it or not accept it," said Stephens. "It gives a \$10,000 raise to the sheriff, up to \$10,000 for the revenue commissioner, approximately \$8,500 for the probate judge, and about \$200 per month for the commissioners."

"I don't feel that this [raise] should be done unless the people of Coffee County vote on it."

Stephens made a motion to amend Brooks' motion to allow the people of the county to vote on it. No second was received.

Mobley pointed out that in order

could appear before the commission and explain exactly how much it is going to cost the taxpayers of Coffee County.

The motion passed by a 5-2 vote with Brooks and Stephens casting the lone dissenting votes.

Later, Commissioner Stephens attempted to once again kill the approval of the pay raise bill by making a motion to not apply the act 2000-108 locally. It was seconded by Commissioner Doug Dalrymple but failed to pass by a 2-5 vote with Stephens and Dalrymple casting the only votes in favor of the motion.

A proposal made by Lenwood Herron, on behalf of Commissioner Brooks, to apply for a grant for a housing rehabilitation program in rural portions of the county failed to get approval. Instead, it was tabled for further study until the April 24th meeting.

The grant is sponsored by the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs and is in the amount of up to \$500,000.00. The deadline for application is June 16.

Herron's proposal targeted a total of 36 homes located in districts 1, 3 and 5 for this grant with plans for a future application for funds to repair homes in districts 2, 4, 6 and 7.

Under the heading of new business, Willie Brown appeared before the commission on behalf of Union Grove Baptist Church. He told the commissioners that the church was in the process of attempting to purchase the old Enterprise Post Office building which is located adjacent to county owned property in Enterprise.

Brown told commissioners that he had been told he would need the commission's approval (signature) to proceed with the purchase of the building.

Elba Police Report

The Elba Police Department, beginning Monday, April 3, 2000, investigated the following incidents: two D.U.I.s, one harassment, three thefts of property, one criminal trespass, one reckless endangerment, two assaults, one unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle, and two vehicle accidents.

The following arrests were made: seven for failure to appear, two for theft of property, two for reckless endangerment, one for assault, one for burglary, one for contempt, and one for criminal mischief.

Traffic citations issued during the week were as follows: one for no driver's license, two for violation of child restraint law, fifteen for speeding, five for driving while driver's license is suspended, ten for violation of the seat belt law, five for an expired tag, one for running a stop sign, two for expired driver's license, one for illegal parking, one for attempting to elude, two for driving without driver's license in possession, and one for no insurance.

Daily activity highlights for the week were as follows:

MONDAY, APRIL 3 - River stage - 5:03 (6:30 a.m.). Routine activity.

TUESDAY, APRIL 4 - Possible prowler reported on Co. Rd. 505 (3:32 a.m.); River stage - 4:96 (6:12 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to a residence on Martin Luther King Drive (8:17 a.m.); Wreck (vehicle vs. deer) on U.S. Hwy. 84E (8:09 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to Elba Police Department (8:33 p.m.); Alarm at a residence on Adkinson Street (9:40 p.m.).

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5 - River stage - 4:91 feet (6:15 a.m.); Wreck reported at the intersection of AL Hwy. 87N and AL Hwy. 87N (3:30 p.m.); Disturbance (loud music) reported in Mulberry Heights Community (6:28 p.m.); Alarm at Fred's on AL Hwy. 203 (7:29 p.m.).

THURSDAY, APRIL 6 - Coffee County EMS dispatched to a residence on Wayne Street (12:57 a.m.); River stage - 4:52 feet (6:33 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to a residence on AL Hwy. 84W (3:48 p.m.).

FRIDAY, APRIL 7 - River stage - 4:25 feet (6:24 a.m.); Wreck reported at the intersection of AL Hwy. 203 and AL Hwy. 87N (10:50 a.m.); Minor wreck reported in the Elba Market Place parking lot (1:50 p.m.).

SATURDAY, APRIL 8 - River stage - 4:07 feet (6:49 a.m.); Wreck reported on Claxton Avenue near Mr. Henry's (7:18 a.m.); Fight reported at Legion Field on Troy Highway (5:30 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to Mullins Apartments (5:57 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to a wreck on Co. Rd. 209 (10:57 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to a residence on Solie Drive (11:37 p.m.).

SUNDAY, APRIL 9 - River stage - 3:87 feet (6:31 a.m.); Burglary reported in Beaverdam Trailer Court (10:00 a.m.); Prowler reported in Morrow Village (5:35 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to a residence on Co. Rd. 208 (6:47 a.m.); Possible prowler reported on Pine Circle (9:59 p.m.).

adjacent to that with Coffee County being one of them because it owns the District Attorney building and the surrounding property.

After several minutes of discussion among commissioners and the county attorney, it was still not clear as to why the commission's signature was needed; therefore, the commissioners decided to table the matter until the matter could be clarified.

Tom Solomon, who is with the Southeast Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission, was given the go-ahead to submit an application with the Rural Development Agency for a grant from the Rural Business Opportunity Grant Program.

The funds from this grant (about \$10,000), should it be approved, will be used to do a feasibility study on the recently purchased land near the county's landfill located on AL Hwy. 125. The study will help the commissioners in determining the best use of the property and how to go about its development.

It was noted by Mobley that a motion had already been passed in December of 1999 approving this action. The motion was passed by Commissioner Stephens and made by a unanimous vote.

County Engineer Randy Tindell reported that work was beginning on the resurfacing of Co. Rd. 215 from Victoria to AL Hwy. 87.

•••Voted to send out bid requests for the paving of Co. Rd. 476 to the Coffee Bakery.

•••Approved a public hearing at the next commission meeting (Monday, April 24) on the closing of Co. Rd. 327. The lone landowner of property adjoining the roadway has given his consent.

•••Signed a resolution entering into an agreement with the Alabama Department of Transportation for the resurfacing of Co. Rd. 215 from Victoria to AL Hwy. 87.

•••Voted to send out bid requests for the paving of Co. Rd. 476 to the Coffee Bakery.

•••Approved a public hearing at the next commission meeting (Monday, April 24) on the closing of Co. Rd. 327. The lone landowner of property adjoining the roadway has given his consent.

Finally, the commission approved the borrowing (via bond issue) of about \$765,000 to complete the three-year plan - this being the final year - of chip-seal resurfacing of county off-system routes. This had already been voted on by the commission and payments have been included in the budget for this purpose.

NOTICE • NOTICE • NOTICE

Political candidates wishing to make their news announcement in The Elba Clipper should do so on or before NOON on TUESDAY, MAY 15th. The Clipper reserves the right to edit lengthy announcements.

ELBA GENERAL HOSPITAL REPORT

Elba General Hospital had the following patients admitted during the time period of April 4, 2000 through April 10, 2000. They were: L. F. Capps, Lois Edgar, Deborah Daniels, Jewell Odum, J. G. Capps, Zackery King, Kim Anderson, Jack Odum, Mary Waters, Jackie Cordle, Janice Davis, Mary Waters, Frank Phillips, Deborah Helms, L. F. Capps, Arkes Daniels, Louise Marshall, Lois Edgar, Linda Odum, Buddy Parrish, Tray Woods, and Maggie Brown.

Persons discharged during the

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Friends at THE ELBA CLIPPER:

Please allow me again to use your editorial page to let Elba High School's Class of 1954 know how pleased I was to receive a donation of three books in memory of a classmate and a friend — Celia English and Ronald Courson. The titles, "Oxford Dictionary And Thesaurus, John Glenn, A Memoir, and The Columbia Dictionary Of Familiar Quotations" make excellent resources for our library/museum center. Books are lasting memorials and we always appreciate donations from alumni classes. Thanks again.

Sincerely,
Margaret Calhoun, LMS
Elba High School

To the Editor:

House Bills 433, 434 and 435 on assisted living facilities in Alabama are awaiting consideration in the Alabama House of Representatives. Governor Siegelman is pushing these bills under the guise of helping the elderly. He discussed his support for them in a three-page press release on April 4, 2000.

EGH&NH

(Continued from Page One)

was also aging and it wasn't unusual for the pipe system to break and leak in the ceiling.

The nursing home sprinkler system will also be upgraded and expanded. When parts of the original facility were constructed, a sprinkler system was not required by the fire code, but with this renovation project the entire nursing home will be protected by an automatic sprinkler system.

The hospital will also get a covered patient loading canopy at the front door. In addition a new entrance to the administrative section of the hospital will be constructed. The nursing home day room at the front will be expanded, taking in the adjoining room, now used as an office for two staff members.

There are also ongoing discussions on ways to add additional lighting in the employee parking lot behind the facility. Briley and Cook are working with the architect in an effort to find space for needed additional visitor and patient parking spaces at the front of the facility.

The hospital board has already spent a half million dollars this year upgrading the facility and equipment in the hospital and nursing home, according to Briley. New equipment includes a CAT scan and ultra sound machine in the hospital and all new beds in the nursing home. Upgrade plans also call for all new beds in the hospital this year.

Grimes reported that Chuck Sanders, the Emergency Management Agency flood management, visited Elba recently and reported the city is in full compliance with federal regulations. He recommended the city update the flood rate maps in certain areas of town.

BLAIR

(Continued from page One)

trative assistant. They have one child, Brian, age 10, who attends Elba City Schools. Dean and his family are active members of Basin Baptist Church.

"I knew public service was my calling when I became a junior fireman at the age of 16," said Blair. "I enjoy helping others which is why I subsequently became a law enforcement officer. There is no greater feeling than helping someone in need. I plan to do that for the citizens of District 1 and Coffee County."

"All citizens should be treated fairly and equally," he said. "I will work for the citizens of District 1 as well as all Coffee County citizens to see this happen. I will also work with all county offices and their employees to see that the citizens' needs are adequately fulfilled. I promise to serve the citizens honestly and to work together with the other commissioners to see Coffee County prosper and be successful."

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Bill 433 would result in more government control of assisted living. Bill 434 would put a moratorium on building new assisted living facilities, and Bill 435 would require a certificate of need for an Alzheimer's unit in an assisted living facility.

These bills would help the nursing home owners and hurt Alabama's elderly by forcing more elderly to obtain care in a nursing home rather than an assisted living facility. This is Siegelman's way of paying back the nursing home owners who supported him in his race for governor. It is not a way to help the elderly in this state.

Nursing home owners in Alabama are receiving approximately \$500,000 each year from the taxpayers in the form of Medicaid payments. Assisted living facilities do not receive any Medicaid payments in Alabama. In other words, assisted living care is all "private pay."

House Bills 433, 434 and 435 need to be defeated and citizens should urge their State Representative to vote against them.

(Continued from Page One)

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STEPHENS

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J. Elbert Peters
1701 Jeannette Circle
Huntsville, AL 35816
(256) 859-3186

Dear Editor,

My name is Jessica Bierer, and I'm a sixth grader at Palomby Middle School in Lake Villa, Illinois. My Mass Communication Class is writing Letters to the Editor of newspapers across the country in hopes of being published, and this is why I am writing to you.

One thing I don't agree with is drugs. There are so many kinds. The most popular is cigarettes. There are many different reasons I don't like the way it smells or how bad it is for you. It's not good for you. A lot of people smoke cigarettes. All they want to do is try smoking just to try, and then you're addicted. It also wastes your money, that's why it's very important to stop!

Sincerely,
Jessica Bierer
133 McKinley Ave.
Lake Villa, IL 60046

Mr. Lee Roy Stevens, age 81, of Mt. Vernon, Ala., died April 6, 2000 at Searcy State Hospital.

Graveside services were held April 8, 2000 at Hebron Church Cemetery in Jack, Ala. with Dr. Tony Dye officiating.

Survivors include his wife: Lilian Daniels, one son: Damien; one daughter: Adrian; his mother: Rosa Daniels, Elba; four sisters: Clyde Bell Goosby, Calhoun, Ala.; Mary Agnes Shiver, Bristol, Fla.; one son: Larry Stevens, San Diego, Calif.; two sisters: Mary Louise Baggett, Elba, and Lillie Mae Parrish, Brundidge.

Funeral services were held April 11, 2000 in the Chapel of Searcy Funeral Home of Enterprise with Rev. Howard Moore officiating. Burial followed in the New Home

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CARD OF THANKS

SMITH FAMILY

The family of OTIS SMITH would like to thank everyone for all the calls, cards, flowers, food, prayers and other acts of kindness shown to us during the illness and death of our daddy and granddaddy.

May God bless you.

THE FAMILY OF OTIS SMITH

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AREA DEATHS

BRACK DAWKINS
Mr. Brack Dawkins, born March 13, 1952, in Elba, Ala., died March 25, 2000.

Mr. Dawkins moved from Elba to Tarpon Springs, Fla. in 1957. He was a construction worker and had worked several places in Central Florida.

CHURCH

PASTOR'S CORNER PASTOR LOEARL FLOWERS NEW PHILADELPHIA CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

A time of new birth

This time of year that new life begins, flowers bloom and the grass grows, pollen is in the air, azaleas are beautiful, birds are singing the song of praise of new growth and life. This time of year we celebrate a very important time of year, the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We realize that the resurrection didn't take place for the resurrection, but for the resurrection. Many times we want to know in the power of his resurrection, but fail to realize that we need to know him in the power of his suffering. We must realize that Christ suffered in the flesh as we must also arm ourselves likewise. Many times during this time of year we lose our focus in the real reason for the season. We are caught up in the Easter egg hiding and the Bunny Rabbit and who can dress in the most colorful attire, but first and foremost we should remember that Christ has risen from the dead so that we may have this wonderful time of year and receive all his wonderful blessings. If Timothy 1:10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ who has abolished death and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel so the Bible teaches us through his resurrection we have new hope, new life, new aspirations, and desires so this year a new century and millennium. Let's renew our family values and love for our neighbors and the less fortunate. Amen. I say it's time for a new birth.

Newbia Baptist Church to begin Revival April 15

Revival services will be held at Newbia Baptist Church Wednesday, April 19, through Friday, April 21, with Brother Bruce Williams, pastor of Whitewater Baptist Church bringing the message. Services will begin at 7:00 p.m. and there will be special singing each night.

Community-Wide Easter Sunrise Service to be held at Westside Baptist Church

The Men's Ministry of Westside Baptist Church will once again host a Community-Wide Easter Sunrise Service. The worship time will begin at 6:15 a.m. with Rev. John Baxter, Elba United Methodist Church, delivering the message. Rev. Kevin Kelley, Westside Baptist Church, will lead the worship time.

Prophecy speaker at New Brockton Methodist Church

Rev. William Wilson will speak on Prophecy at New Brockton UMC, Sunday evening, March 16, at 6 o'clock.

Rev. Wilson speaks on the subject of Prophecy as pertaining to Israel and the world each third Sunday at New Brockton.

Easter Sunrise Service planned at Newbia Baptist Church

Sunrise Services will be held at Newbia Baptist Church on April 23 at 6:00 a.m. with Pastor Wayne Webber bringing the message. Breakfast will be served following the service.

Sunday School will begin at 10:00 a.m. and Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m. Pastor Wayne Webber and congregation extend a special invitation for everyone to attend these services. There will be no evening service.

Schedule of events for Holy Week set at Elba United Methodist Church

The Elba United Methodist Church schedule for Holy Week is: Sunday, April 16 - 10:00 a.m. - Easter Cantata with the Chancel Choir. Wednesday, April 19 - 5:00 dinner and Bible Study, children and youth activities. Thursday, April 20 - 7:00 p.m. - Maundy Thursday/Tenebrae Service. Friday, April 21 - 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. - Resurrection Camp for elementary children. Cost is \$5, bring a sack lunch and 6 hard boiled eggs. Please register by Monday, April 17.

Friday, April 21 - 3:00 p.m. - Trip to Destin, FL to see the Assembly of God's Passion Play. We will eat at Ryan's.

Saturday, April 22 - 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon - Easter Egg Hunt at the Parsonage, 1322 Highland Dr. The Easter Bunny will be hopping our way too!

Easter Sunday, April 23 - 6:15 a.m. - Rev. John Baxter will preach at the Easter Sunrise Service held at Westside Baptist Church, Elba.

Easter Sunday, April 23 - 9:00 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages. Children will host a Butterfly Release!

Easter Sunday, April 23 - 10:00 a.m. - Easter Celebration, Sanctuary!

We would like to invite everyone to come and join us for these events. If you are looking for a church home, come check us out.

ROUND & ABOUT WITH ERIA 897-2006

Scripture: 1 Peter 2:1-16

***Thinking of you, praying for you: the Daniels and Johnson families, Hannah Coleman, Kimberly Rideaux, Bernice Hamilton, Johnnie M. Daniels, Rev. Ben Butler, Louise Jackson, Johnnie Yelverton, Hattie Bell Carpenter, Helen Folmar.

***Welcome to the Annual Family and Friends Day Program of the St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church in Glenwood on Sunday, April 16 at 3 p.m. The speaker will be Rev. Billy Marshall, pastor of North Star Baptist Church in Montgomery. All churches are invited.

***Youth Revival of the Rocky Head Baptist Church in Elba will be April 17-21 at 7 p.m. Monday night: Rocky Head, Macedonia, Lockhart, Florida COGIC, Mt. Neba-Troy, Jordan Grove-Searchlight, Pleasant Shae-Enterprise, Wednesday night: Pleasant Grove-Enterprise, Mt. Calvary-Elba, Shady Grove A.M.E.-Elba, Piney Grove-Elba, Bethlehem-Elba, Harris Temple COGIC, Mt. Zion-Enterprise, Zion Chapel-Brantley and Rocky Head, Thursday night: Rocky Head, A.M.E.-Elba, Collins Chapel-New Brockton, Goshen First Baptist, Pleasant Ridge-Henderson, Mt.

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LIFESTYLES

Annual Brunson Reunion set for Saturday April 15th

The 147th Annual Brunson Reunion will be held on Saturday, April 15, at Elba Elementary School.

This legacy began in 1853 and has been held each year since. It is believed to be the oldest continuous tradition in Coffee County. Each year, some four hundred relatives attend and continue to commemorate the birthday of patriarch Matthew Brunson who came to Coffee County in 1853. Retired Probate Judge Marion Brunson and his family have sponsored the historic reunion the past twenty-three years.



Michael Shannon Moses & Wendy Lee Chancellor

Miss Chancellor to wed Mr. Moses April 29th at Zion Chapel Baptist Church

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Chancellor of Troy, Ala., and Mr. and Mrs. Michael Moses of Honorville, Ala., announce the wedding of their children, Wendy Lee Chancellor to Michael Shannon Moses.

Wendy is the granddaughter of Mr. Agnes Chancellor and the late Mr. Clemmie Chancellor of Troy, Ala. and Mrs. Orla Oakes and the late Mr. Gussie Oakes of Union Springs, Ala.

Wendy is a graduate of Zion Chapel High School, Florida Institute of Ultrasound and Montgomery School of Massage Therapy. She is currently working as an

Ultrasound technician in Montgomery, Ala.

Shannon is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Cody Moses of Lapine, Ala. and Mr. and Mrs. Byron Chesser of Honorville, Ala.

Shannon is a graduate of Crenshaw Christian Academy and Troy State University. He currently works as a financial representative in Montgomery, Ala.

The wedding will be held on Saturday, April 29, at 2:00 p.m. in the afternoon at Zion Chapel Baptist Church. All family and friends are invited to attend.

Wendy is currently working as an



Mrs. Velma Bradshaw

Velma Bradshaw celebrates 88th birthday recently

On Sunday, April 2, at 2 p.m. in the afternoon, a birthday party was held in honor of Velma Bradshaw's 88th birthday.

The room was decorated in her favorite colors of purple, lavender and blue. Those celebrating with her were: daughters Joyce Falls, Joan Stevens and Patsy Williams; daughter-in-law Frances Bradshaw;

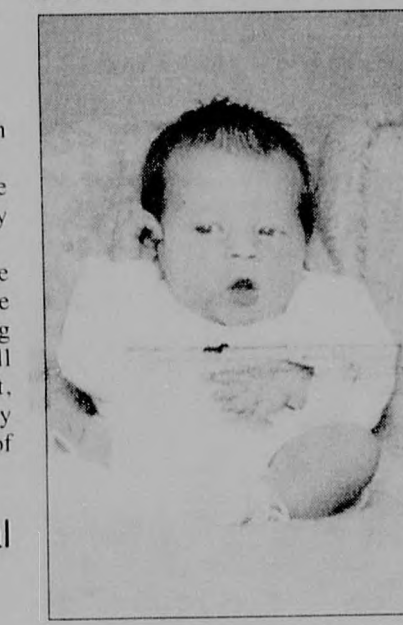
son-in-law Hershel Williams; grandchildren Pam Maddaloni and Derek Stevens; great-grandchildren Bradley Bane, Sara Bane, David Maddaloni and Dustin Maddaloni. Everyone enjoyed birthday cake, punch and chips. The honoree enjoyed the visits, food, flowers and gifts.

All three babies are currently in the neonatal intensive care unit at Baptist Medical Center South and will hopefully be coming home soon.

NEW ARRIVALS

KENNEDY JACOB COWEN

Jake Cowen and Andrea Carley of Elba announce the birth of their son, Kennedy Jacob Cowen. Born March 7, 2000 at Medical Center Enterprise, he weighed 9 lbs. 1 oz. and was 21 1/4 inches long. Kennedy was welcomed home by his grandparents, Ed and Myrna Cowen of Elba and Kenneth and Dianne Carley of Kinston.



Gavin Matthew Oglesby
GAVIN MATTHEW OGLESBY

Jason and Brandy Oglesby of Kinston, Ala., announce the birth of their son, Gavin Matthew, on Wednesday, March 8, 2000, at 2:35 p.m. at Medical Center Enterprise.

Gavin weighed 8 lbs. 4 oz. and was 21 1/2 inches long. He was welcomed home by a host of grandparents and great-grandparents.

Both mother and son are doing fine.

Book Sale to be held at Elba Public Library Monday, April 17

Elba Public Library is having a book sale April 17 through April 20. Adult fiction, nonfiction, children's books, large print and condensed books will sell. A few adult tapes will sell as well. The hours are 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Parents of children with Autism are faced with many joys and frustrations. It begins with the question of "Why is my child different?" and ends with "Who will be there for my child when I am gone?" Contact the Autism Society of Alabama for stories from parents, which introduce you to "their world of Autism."

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Community News

Relay For Life Car Wash Saturday, April 15th
sponsored by Elba United Methodist Youth

There will be a Car Wash to benefit Relay for Life, Saturday, April 15, 9:30-12:00. At Hardee's. This will be sponsored by the Youth of Elba United Methodist Church.

C&S Country Store & Deli

897-1745
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6 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Thurs. - Sat. (Breakfast, Lunch & Supper)
6 a.m. - 8 p.m.

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• Drummettes and More
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Home Cooked Veggies
Friday & Saturday - Lunch & Supper
Shrimp Dinner - \$4.99 • Seafood Platters - \$6.99
Whole Catfish Dinner - \$3.99
Fillet Catfish Dinner - \$4.19
• Dinners come with cole slaw, french fries, hushpuppies and 2 pieces of fish.
• Platter comes with 2 pieces of whole fish, 2 stuffed crabs, 8 oz. cup of popcorn shrimp, cole slaw, french fries and hushpuppies.

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Brantley Band Day 2000 to be held Saturday, April 29th

Brantley Band Day 2000 will be held Saturday, April 29, at the National Guard Armory on Highway 331 South in Brantley. The day's events will begin at 7 a.m. and continue through 2 p.m. There will be live music, crafts, concessions, a yard sale, children's activities and plenty of fun for the whole family. The Brantley Band invites all to come out early and stay the whole day.

Living With Grief Forum to be held April 26th at MacArthur Tech.

Countryside Hospice Care, MacArthur State Technical College and the Hospice Foundation of America will present, "Living with Grief: Children, Adolescents, and Loss", Hospice Foundation of America's National Bereavement Teleconference by Cokie Roberts of ABC News on Wednesday, April 26, from 12:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. at MacArthur State Technical College, Chisum Health Sciences Building, in Opp. This will provide health care professionals, bereaved families, school counselors, educators, social workers and other caregivers an educational forum to hear a panel of experts discuss ways to help children and adolescents cope with loss, grief and bereavement.



VODIE RAY MONEY recently retired from Dorsey Trailers after more than 33 years of service. Money worked as an assembler for the company. Above, Frank Fagan (left), production manager, and Keith Longenecker (right), plant manager, present Money (center) with a plaque and engraved gold watch.

Coffee County Schools Menu April 17 - 21, 2000

BREAKFAST	LUNCH
Monday - Sausage & Biscuit, Cereal, Juice, Milk	Monday - Barbecue Sandwich, Pepperoni Pizza, Baked Potato, Cole Slaw, Fruit
Tuesday - Chicken & Biscuit, Jelly, Cereal, Juice, Milk	Tuesday - Turkey Club Croissant, Beef & Cheese Nachos, Steamed Veggies, Breaded Squash, Peaches, Milk
Wednesday - Ham & Cheese Omelet, Toast, Cereal, Juice, Milk	Wednesday - Fried Chicken, Sloppy Joe, Potato Salad, Green Beans, Rolls, Fruit, Milk
Thursday - Cinnamon Raisin Biscuit w/ Iceing, Cereal, Juice, Milk	Thursday - Chicken Nuggets, Hot Dogs, Tater Tots, Broccoli, Fruit, Rolls, Milk
Friday - Good Friday Holiday	Friday - Good Friday Holiday

NEWS AMONG OUR SERVICE FOLKS

ELLIOTT LIPTROT

Air Force Airman Elliott Liptrot has graduated from the automated logistical specialist advanced individual training (AIT) course at Fort Lee, Petersburg, Va.

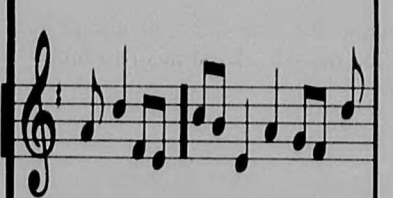
Liptrot is the son of Annie J. Liptrot of Brundidge. He is a 1996 graduate of Zion Chapel High School.

EHS Welding Dept., to be selling BBQ Grills & Fish Cookers Sat., April 15

Elba High School Welding Department will be selling BBQ Grills and Fish Cookers on the square in Elba during Band Day on April 15. These items are made and sold to raise money for the Welding Department. 55 Gal. BBQ Grill - \$90 and Fish Cookers - \$70.

DON'T FORGET EHS BAND DAY 2000

This Saturday, April 15th On the Square Downtown Elba Beginning at 9:00 p.m.



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I - 28 DAYS (PG-13)
M-F 7:15A-9:30 • S&S 2:15A-9:30
II - KEEPING THE FAITH (PG-13)
M-F 7:15A-9:30 • S&S 2:15A-9:30
III - THE ROAD TO EL DORADO (PG)
M-F 7:00 • S&S 2:15
ROMEO MUST DIE (R)
M-F 9:00 • S&S 9:00
IV - READY TO RUMBLE (PG-13)
M-F 7:15A-9:30 • S&S 2:15A-9:30
College • College Plaza
College Plaza
I - RULES OF ENGAGEMENT (R)
M-F 7:15A-9:30 • S&S 2:15A-9:30
II - ERIN BROCKOVICH (R)
M-F 9:00 • S&S 2:15
III - THE SKULLS (PG-13)
M-F 9:30 Only • S&S 9:30 Only
IV - RETURN TO ME (PG)
M-F 7:15A-9:30 • S&S 2:15A-9:30
Buy an Advance Seat & Save 2 p.m. only, all seats \$4.99

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SCHOOLS

Co-Op Spotlight



by Natasha Bannin

This week's Co-op spotlight focuses on **Cammie Kelley**. She is employed at Kelley Foods of AL where she faxes, copies, files, and uses the telephone.

Cammie is the 17-year-old daughter of Jerry and Theresa Kelley and is a junior at Elba High. She is Sr. Beta Secretary, Junior Class President, Tiger Tales Editor, and a member of the Journalism Staff, Girl Scout Troop #300 and VICA. Her future plans are to attend Auburn University and major in Secondary Education.

Jump In Jump Out & Introduce Yourself!

by Kimberly Ward
Every week, the EHS Journalism Staff highlights one student to help the public get a better understanding of the different types of students at Elba High.

This week, seventh grader **Evan Tew** is featured. Evan is in the seventh grade at Elba High and is the son of Holly and Phil Tew.

Evan has lived in Elba for three years. He likes the golf course in Elba the best. Evan has two brothers, and he enjoys playing golf and collecting coins. Evan's favorite subject is history.

When asked what makes him different, he replied, "I'm short and small."

SUPPORT YOUTH & EDUCATION

MacArthur announces Summer Registration

MacArthur State Technical College announces the registration schedule for Summer Term. Applicants who register according to the following schedule will have time to take placement tests as well as complete financial aid applications which must be approved by the Financial Aid Office by May 9, the first day of classes.

Registration for diploma programs will be held April 7 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. These programs include Auto Body, Auto Mechanics, Barbering, Carpentry and Cabinetry, Cosmetology, Diesel Mechanics, Nursing, Nursing Assistant, Upholstery and Welding.

April 21 is the registration day for degree programs. Students may register from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. for Accounting, Communication Electronics, Computer Science, Drafting, Industrial Electricity and Industrial Electronics.

Applicants who cannot register according to this schedule may visit the Registrar's Office at 1708 North Main Street, Opp, Ala., in order to schedule an alternate time or may request information by calling 493-3573, ext. 233 or 260.

New students must take the COMPASS placement test prior to registration. The test will be administered at 8 a.m. each Friday through May 5. There is no fee for the test. All new students are also required to attend Orientation on May 8 in the Student Center from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

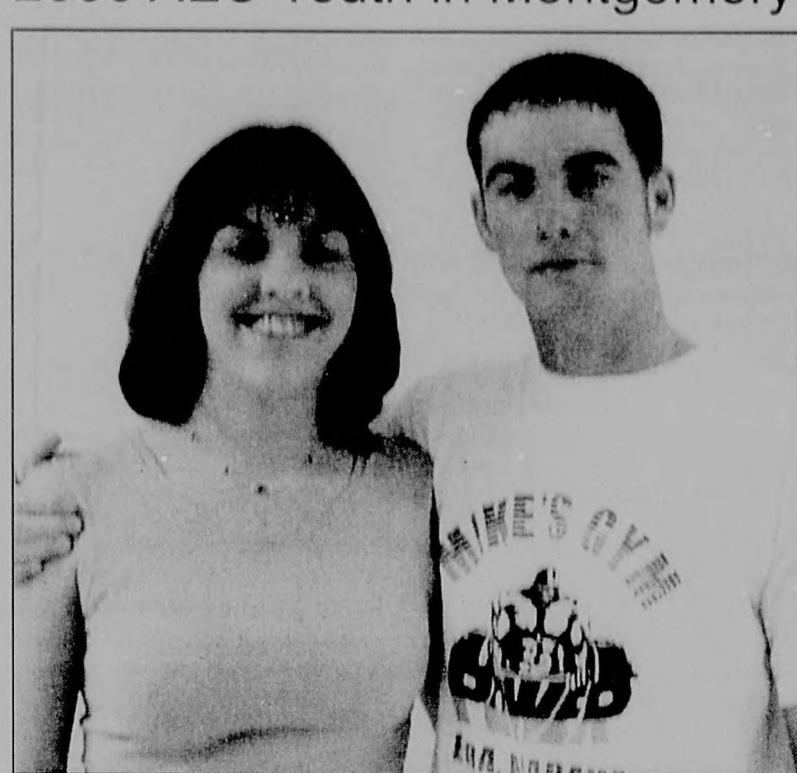
MacArthur State Technical College offers continuing education evening courses. These non-credit courses are designed especially for professional development. Individuals may register for these courses between April 7 and the first class meeting. Microsoft Excel will meet on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 5 until 7:40 p.m. The course will begin May 9 and end June 22.

Exploring the Internet begins June 27 and ends August 15. Meeting hours are Tuesday nights from 5 until 7:40 p.m.

Tiger Tales

Editors:
Kimberly Ward
Cammie Kelley

2000 AEC Youth in Montgomery



Pictured above are: Tiffany Farris and Josh Lawford

by Tiffany Farris
On April 3rd, 4th, and 5th Tiffany Farris and Josh Lawford traveled to Montgomery with the AEC Youth Tour Program. Tiffany was the winner of the AEC essay paper last year and Josh was the first alternate. The winner and the first alternate both won an all expense paid trip to Montgomery. Tiffany Farris was picked as one of the two delegates to participate in the 2000 energy bowl (dealing with the facts about electricity) in Montgomery. She competed against other students from Alabama. She also had to answer as many questions as she possibly could to score points for her team. While Tiffany and Josh were there, they visited many historical sites, met with different state officials, and also attended seminars regarding the use and importance of electricity.

Elba Elementary School Menu April 17 - 21, 2000

BREAKFAST	LUNCH
Monday - Cinnamon Toast, 1/2 Apple, Cereal, Juice, Milk	Monday - Steak Sandwich, Mixed Vegetables, Potato Rounds, 1/2 Orange, Milk
Tuesday - Pancakes, Syrup, Cereal, Juice, Milk	Tuesday - Chicken Salad, Green Beans, Corn Chips, Peach Cup, Crackers, Milk
Wednesday - Biscuit & Jelly, Sausage, Cereal, Juice, Milk	Wednesday - Pizza, Green Salad, Corn on Cob, Mixed Fruit, Milk
Thursday - Breakfast Pizza, Cereal, Juice, Milk	Thursday - Turkey Dressing, English Peas, Corn, Cranberry Sauce, Bread, Easter Cake, Milk
Friday - Good Friday Holiday	Friday - Good Friday Holiday

Teen Violence Issue Has to Be Arressed

by Cammie Kelley

Everyone is aware of the incidences at Columbine, Jonesboro and Pearl. Miss. However, what is being done to stop the violence that is repeatedly occurring in our schools? A school is supposed to be a safe haven for children. It is supposed to be exempt from violence. What is causing our children to commit violent, premeditated acts? It is simply a huge issue that has to be addressed.

Today, there is a lack of moral values established in the home. Many children live in abusive, single-parent, and chaotic homes. In these situations, children are usually neglected. They are not taught of the moral values that set the standard for a prosperous life. They are also neglected and feel a sense of loneliness. These are great problems that should be taken care of. Drug problems, teen violence, and sexual promiscuity all stem from a lack of moral values established in the home. It is time for parents to instill in their children good moral principles and develop a lasting and open relationship with their teenagers. Also, schools should begin offering character education programs for teenagers that do not receive moral support at home. These steps would help in providing a better situation and outlook for society.

People in society today look at teenagers as outcasts and rejects to society. They do not expect teenagers to possess good social behaviors. There are drug problems, teen sex, and alcohol, but for every teenager that participates in these activities, there is one teen that is not. These teens possess good moral values and are the leaders of tomorrow. There are thousands of intelligent, well-rounded, and congenial students out there. Society as a whole should not give up on the teenagers of this generation.

There has to be an ending to this saga. Kids have to quit killing other kids. It doesn't just happen in big cities, it's happening in small towns. Kids are dying, mothers are crying, and dads are asking why. There has to be an ending to these violent acts. The best place to begin is the home and classroom. Society should begin to have high expectations for teens. Teenagers today are intelligent and wonderful. Youth should not be used as an excuse for violent crime. Parents and Prevention go hand in hand. It is up to parents to instill good values in their teenagers. With this, prevention comes along.

Meet Our Faculty

by Emilee Qualls

This week's "Meet Our Faculty" at Elba High School focuses on Mrs. Susan Stone Barnes.

Mrs. Barnes graduated from Opp High School and attended college at Auburn University. She majored in Physical Education and Recreation.

Mrs. Barnes has taught in Magonia, Miss., Paxton, Fla. and DeFuniak Springs, Fla. She now teaches at Elba where she has been for the past nine years. She teaches Physical Education and is the Volleyball Coach, Golf Coach and Varsity Cheerleader Sponsor.

Mrs. Barnes is married to Doyle Barnes, and they have two children, Kristen and Bart Barnes.

Mrs. Barnes says that her favorite thing about teaching at Elba High School is the school spirit.

Students Attend Jr. Beta State Convention

by Karen Davis

On March 16 and 17, Elba was represented at the 10th Annual Junior Beta State Convention in Montgomery, Ala.

Ninth graders, DeAnn Smith, Courtney Pellham, Devri Kikerease and Kristy Ward competed in scholastic competition which included written exams on Algebra, History, Science and English. Kristy also gave an eloquent speech contest and Courtney entered a lovely painting in the art competition.

Eighth graders included Brittany Smith, who entered the photography contest, and Katie Dyess who made the banner that was judged. Christy Eubanks helped with the design of the banner but did not attend the convention.

The editors of the scrapbook that was entered for competition were seventh graders, Kristin Barnes, Cassy Cooper, Ashley Gibson and Anna Harrison. We are proud of these young ladies and are extremely proud of 7th grader Lyndsay Lawford.

Lyndsay was a candidate for vice-president of the State Junior Beta Club. She campaigned and gave a speech in front of the 4000 Jr. Beta's who were at the convention.

The other 7th graders performed a campaign skit on the same stage in front of the same audience. Lyndsay did not win this year.

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Picture are several members of the Jr. Beta Club (watch out for next year!) and we were unsuccessful in our other entries. But, it was our first year.

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SALE \$69
FAMOUS BRAND VCR
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WHIRLPOOL DISHWASHER
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LIVINGROOM SUITE
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Community News

Missing brother & sister return home safely

by Marvin McLwain, Editor

The two Coffee County missing teenagers have been returned home safely. They had been missing since Thursday, March 30.

David Adam Lamb, 14, was located and returned to the custody of his parents at their home in the Basin Community last Thursday, April 6. Ashley Tanay Lamb, 15, was located and returned to her home in the custody of her parents late Friday night (April 7). Both were reported to be in good physical condition.

Authorities had spent hundreds of hours searching the area near the children's home and the search had

extended to neighboring counties and even into the state of Florida.

Initially, it was believed that the two youths had made their way - hitchhiking and walking - to the Florida panhandle. After David returned home, he told authorities that he thought his sister was in the vicinity of Panama City, Fla. and possibly traveling with a male companion in a blue Ford Mustang convertible. This proved to be false.

The boy later disclosed where his sister was staying in a neighboring county and authorities were able to return her to her parents. It is believed, by authorities, that the pair were never further from home than the neighboring county.

The investigation is continuing into the circumstances as to why the two youths disappeared and the length of time they were gone. "We're continuing to investigate exactly what went on," said Bruce DeVane, chief investigator with the 12th Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office.

He stated that there is a possibility of an arrest and criminal charges in the incident.

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POLITICAL OFFICE QUALIFIERS

DEMOCRATIC PARTY	Commissioner Dist. Five:	William Ted Rugg
Circuit Judge - Place One:	Bernest Brooks (Incumbent)	Constable Beat 20
Thomas E. Head (Incumbent)	Winzell Gray	Andy Gunter
District Judge:	Commissioner Dist. Seven:	
Steven E. Blair (Incumbent)	Ramon E. Dean	
Circuit Clerk:	County BOE Dist. 2	
Mickey Counts	Rodger M. Harrison	
Mickey Counts	Ben Amlong (Incumbent)	
Stanley H. Walker	Joe Simmons	
Probate Judge:	County BOE Dist. 3	
Doug Donaldson	Steve Hunko	
Probate Judge:	County BOE Dist. 5	
Gary Watson	Myron N. Williams	
Commissioner Dist. One:	Rubin McKinnon (Incumbent)	
Linda Westbrook (Incumbent)	Constable Beat 1	
Commissioner Dist. Two:	Richard J. Patterson (Incumbent)	
Dean Blair	Constable Beat 7	
Commissioner Dist. Three:	Robert Preachers (Incumbent)	
Robert Stephens (Incumbent)	Constable Beat 8	
Commissioner Dist. Four:	Terry Wilkins (Incumbent)	
Doug Dalrymple (Incumbent)	Constable Beat 15	
Commissioner Dist. Five:	Howard Lee	
Van Donaldson		

REPUBLICAN PARTY

Probate Judge:
William O. Gammill
Commissioner Dist. Two:
Kayo Lewis (Incumbent)
Commissioner Dist. Four:
Charles S. Goolsby
Commissioner Dist. Six:
Randy Lunsford
James W. Thompson
Commissioner Dist. Seven:
Tom Grimsley (Incumbent)
County BOE Dist. 2:
Annette Griswold
County BOE Dist. 3:
Kevin Moore
Constable Beat 17
Michael R. Norwicki

From The House...

by Congressman Terry Everett

House Votes for White House Action on Gas Prices

Disturbed by the recent sharp rise in gas prices as well as the Clinton Administration's failure to foresee or address the problem, the U.S. House of Representatives voted last week for legislation calling on the White House to work to end oil price fixing by oil producing nations. As the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) meets this week to consider raising oil production, Congress wants to send a message to the Administration and oil producing nations that Americans will not tolerate needlessly high fuel prices.

On Wednesday, the House passed the Oil Price Reduction Act by a 382 to 38 margin. It instructs the Clinton Administration to determine America's political, economic and security relations with the oil producing nations which are found to be engaged in oil price fixing, and it orders the federal government to push the oil producing countries to completely dismantle international oil price fixing.

While I am disappointed that the legislation passed by the House last week did not also include tougher threats of sanctions of U.S. and assistance to those countries involved in oil price fixing - action which I feel is also necessary - the House vote is a solid first step toward forcing Administration action to address high gas prices.

Moreover, this new legislation should be helpful in focusing attention on the Clinton Administration's lack of a federal energy policy while America has dramatically grown in its dependence upon foreign oil imports over the last several decades. The United States today is more reliant on other countries for its energy needs than ever before. Our nation spends some \$300 million dollars a day on foreign oil, importing 8.1 million barrels daily. Foreign oil imports alone make up a full one-third of the nation's trade deficit and Iraq is the fastest growing source of U.S. oil imports.

Why this imbalance? Is America out of domestic energy sources? Far from it. Truth is the Clinton Administration is not interested in pursuing domestic energy exploration and development. In fact, they want to prevent development of oil in this country.

Since 1992, domestic oil production has fallen 17 percent while consumption has risen by 14 percent. In 1990, there were 657 working U.S. oil rigs. Today there are only 453. Since 1992, 36 American oil refineries have closed and no new refineries have been built since 1976.

The Clinton Administration's indifference to our growing dependence upon foreign energy has led us precisely to the situation we face today with a handful of foreign

nations literally dictating what Americans pay at the gas pumps.

As Energy Secretary Bill Richardson put it last month, "It is obvious that the federal government was not prepared. We were caught napping." That shouldn't have happened since OPEC gave the Administration a year's advance warning that it would be tightening its oil exports.

Congress believes America's interests are best served by decreasing our foreign energy reliance and by promoting increased domestic energy production. High gas prices affect us all from the manufacturer to the shipper to the farmer to the consumer.

It's time the Administration stepped forward with a national energy policy that puts Americans' first.

Girl's State Coming to TSU for the first time

Troy State University will make Alabama history June 4-9 by playing host to Girls State, an annual citizenship training conference for almost 400 high school juniors from across the state.

This year marks the first time in its 50-year history that Girls State will be held outside Montgomery. Troy State University is only the second school to ever play host to the event, according to Stacy Fountain, director.

"We decided to bid out Girls State this year and Troy State had the best proposal," Fountain said. "We are impressed with the facilities at the university and we think the young women will have an excellent experience in Troy."

Sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary, Girls State uses a mock legislative format to teach young women about civics and citizenship. Participants are divided into cities and counties and elect local officials. They also serve as the senators and representatives, debating bills and proposing solutions to problems facing elected officials. The highlight of the week is the election of a governor, and hearing prominent speakers.

Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr., Chancellor of the Troy State University System, said the announcement is exciting news for TSU. "We are well aware of the outstanding track record of Girls State," Dr. Hawkins said. "Girls state offers some of the best leadership training available for high school students. What these young women learn about citizenship - responsibility - how Girls State will prepare them well for whatever career paths they choose."

The following article, which will be in the book, gives a glimpse of school days in the 1930s.

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EHS Band Day 2000 set for Saturday

Support the award winning Elba High School Band at Band Day 2000 on Saturday, April 15, beginning at 9 a.m. on the Courthouse Square. A live remote broadcast from WZLZ, arts and crafts, Bingo and carnival games are included in the day's activities. Coca Cola will be providing a concession wagon where Elba Band Boosters will be selling Coke products, hamburgers, hot dogs and other concessions. Entertainment scheduled to appear

includes the 5th and 6th grade bands, Leanne Mallory, Youth and Children's Choirs of Elba First Baptist Church, the creative drama group of Elba First Assembly of God, Elba High School Band, and new Elba High School Color Guard and Dance Line and Down Home from Ozark. Several prominent citizens will be locked up on the square until they are able to post their bail of \$100 each. Area merchants have donated items to be

auctioned beginning at 1 p.m. Barbecue plates and Boston butts may be picked up at the Elba Senior Citizen Center from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. In the event of rain, activities will be moved to the American Legion Building and Pavilion on the Troy Highway.

All proceeds from Band Day 2000 will help provide instruments, percussion equipment, travel expenses and music for the Elba High School Band.



AWARD WINNING BAND... The Elba High School Band is pictured above with only a few of the many trophies earned during the 1999-2000 school year. The band received all superior ratings this past fall at the Daleville, Prattville and Opp marching contests. The band also received all superior ratings in February at the District Concert Band Festival in Troy.

Coffee County Heritage Committee still accepting stories

Coffee County Heritage Committee is still accepting family, community, church, and school histories and stories to be published in an upcoming book entitled *The Heritage of Coffee County*. The deadline for submitting such articles has been extended to July 31, 2000. This book will be published from a cooperative effort by residents of Coffee County and descendants of past residents. You need not be a professional writer to contribute to this book.

Submitted articles on pioneer families (pre-1890) are allowed 1000 free words and two small photographs. Submissions on families who entered the county after 1890 are allowed 500 free words and one photograph. Extra words may be added and photographs enlarged, but there is a cost for extra coverage. Histories of churches, clubs, and organizations should be held to about 250 words. A photograph may be included with each submission.

You are invited to attend the next meeting of the Heritage Committee on April 24 at 6:30 p.m. in the "Log House" Welcome Center on the Enterprise Bypass. Brochures explaining the book project are available from the Welcome Center, or the Historical Society Gift Shop in downtown Enterprise, or the Elba City Library. For more information you may call one of the members of the Heritage Committee: Anne Hood (897-5852), Lavina Helms (347-6150), Marion Brunson (897-2427), Phyllis Maddox (897-5550), or Peggy Stroud (897-2847).

This unique book, which will contain histories on the "heart and soul" of Coffee County will be available for individual purchase. You may reserve a book at the pre-publication price of \$59 (includes tax and mailing cost) or \$54 (if you choose to come by and pick up the book yourself). The address for sending submitted stories and for ordering books is Coffee County Heritage Committee, P.O. Box 310654, Enterprise, Alabama 36331.

The following article, which will be in the book, gives a glimpse of school days in the 1930s.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Coffee County Schools to hold Kindergarten Registration

The Coffee County School System will hold Kindergarten Registration the week of May 1, 2000. Parents are reminded to bring their child's birth certificate, Social Security card and immunization record. The schedule below will be followed:

NEW BROCKTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Tuesday, May 2, 2000
8 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.
Phone: (334) 894-6152
Principal: Dr. Irma Townsend

ZION CHAPEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Wednesday, May 3, 2000
8 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.
Phone: (334) 897-6802
Principal: Mr. Bob Andrews

KINSTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Thursday, May 4, 2000
8 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.
Phone: (334) 565-3027
Principal: Ms. Patty Taylor

Coffee County retired teachers & support personnel to meet April 18

The Coffee County Association of Retired Teachers and Support Personnel will meet Tuesday, April 18, at 11 a.m. at Ryan's Steakhouse in Enterprise. The program will focus on Regions Bank and Investment Company.

WCC fine arts dept. to present Black Comedy

The Wallace Community College Fine Arts Department will present the one-act play, *Black Comedy*, a world famous farce by Peter Shaffer, April 25-29.

The curtain will rise each night at 7:30 in the Bence Theatre inside Wallace Hall on the Wallace campus in Dothan. Admission is free. This play contains mature subject matter. If you require accommodations under ADA, contact Dr. Jane McMurtry at 983-3521, ext. 287, two weeks prior to the performance.

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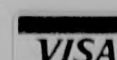
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VENDOR AGREEMENT - The Elba County FSA Office in New Brockton, Alabama is now accepting written quotations from vendors for seasonal flying for aerial photography in Coffee, Crenshaw, Pike/Bullock and Geneva Counties. Applications must be made ready to accept camera equipment furnished by the FSA Office. Pilot must be qualified with a valid commercial license. Quotations will be accepted through April 28, 2000. Call (334) 894-5581 for more information. 4-13-00

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OZARK CITY Schools is seeking applications for anticipated openings. Administration, secondary education, elementary education, early childhood education, special education, professional instructional support, athletics. Applications should be submitted by April 30, 2000. Ozark City Board of Education, 928 East Andrews Avenue, Ozark, Alabama 36360. (334) 774-5197. We are proud to be an equal opportunity employer and encourage applications from minorities. (R)

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HORSE SALE every 3rd Friday night at the Coffee County Stockyard. All sale 6 p.m. and Horses 8 p.m. Located on Hwy. 84 W. in Elba, AL. For more information, call 897-2540. 4-13-00

ELBA INSULATION CO. Residential or commercial. Batts or blown. Fiberglass insulation. Call Earl Yates 897-3630. 4-11-00

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YARD SALES

YARD SALE-SADDLE HILL COMMUNITY. Next door to Coffee County Lake. Saturday, April 15th, 8:00 - 12:00 Noon. 4-13-00

FAMILY YARD SALE. 811 Reese Ave. Friday, April 14, 7:00 - 3:00. Saturday, April 15, 7:00 - Noon. NO EARLY BIRDS PLEASE! 4-13-00

2 HOUSE YARD SALE - Saturday, April 15, 2000 - 8:00 A.M. Until. Furniture, Other Household Items, Clothes - Nan Driggers, Larkins Rd. Box 140, Elba (897-2119). 4-13-00

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Sam Cooper adopts slogan "We Treat You Right" with purchase of the Elba Dairy Queen

by Linda Hodge, Staff Writer

The Dairy Queen has been a part of the City of Elba for many years, and the business recently experienced a change when a new owner took over at the helm.

For as long as many can remember, Harry Jacobs of Elba had been the lead man at Elba's Dairy Queen, but Jacobs decided he was ready to give it up towards the end of 1999. And, that's when Sam Cooper's involvement with the business began.

"My brother-in-law owns one (Dairy Queen) in Andalusia and Harry gave him a call to see if he was interested in buying it," Cooper said. "On Christmas Day, my brother-in-law mentioned it to me and I started checking into it."

Cooper officially took over as owner of Elba's Dairy Queen on Feb. 7, 2000.

Cooper was born in Enterprise and raised in the Ino Community. He finished high school in Kinston and has lived in the Basin Community with his family since around

the mid-80s. He and his wife, Betty, have two sons, Jody, 24, and Greg, 22.

"We've had a very good reception and a lot of positive comments from the people of Elba," Cooper said. "I know there is a lot of turnover in this business, but I think we've done real good so far."

Cooper said there are several little things he wants to work on with the business such as upgrading the facility and equipment as he can, training the employees and getting uniforms for the employees, but the most important task is to work on the quality.

"The most important thing for us to do is offer quality service and good food," Cooper said. "That's really important to work on daily."

He added that the restaurant has always had a good reputation for the chicken and cole slaw, and he wants to keep that reputation.

"There have been some people who have asked me to be sure not to change those two things," Cooper

said.

At this point, the only major change he said he is looking at making is an extension to the hours. He said in the near future, he is looking to extend the hours on Sunday through Thursday from 9 a.m. until 9:30 p.m. On Friday and Saturday nights, he said the dining room will be open from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. and only the drive-thru will be open from 9 p.m. until 10 p.m.

Currently, the restaurant closes at 9 p.m. each night.

"We appreciate the business each and every customer has given us," said Cooper. "And, especially during daylight savings time, I think the extended hours will be beneficial to the customers which is why I am looking at staying open later each night."

Cooper said he has really enjoyed his time as owner of Elba's Dairy Queen thus far, and he plans on staying at the helm for several years to come.



UNDER NEW LEADERSHIP...The Elba Chamber of Commerce recently welcomed the new owners of the Elba Dairy Queen into the business industry with an official ribbon cutting ceremony. Several local officials and individuals were on hand for the ribbon cutting to show their support for Elba's newest business owners. Those present were (from left to right): Jimmy Harrison, Kaye Whitworth, executive director of the Elba Chamber of Commerce, Doris Matthews, Dawn Austin, Rev. W.L. Peterson, Elba Mayor James Grimes, Sam Cooper, owner, Molly McGuire, Little Miss Elba, Timothy Williams, Betty Cooper, owner, Valerie Moore, Miss Elba, Winzell Gray, Elba city councilman, Tonya Jones and Herby McCall.

Ann Linton recently appointed as new Elba Postmaster

Ann Linton was recently appointed as the Elba Postmaster.

She has been with the Postal Service for 23 years and has worked in Samson, Daleville, Ozark, New Brooklyn, Kinston, Geneva, Brewton, Opp and Coffee Springs. Linton has experience as a city carrier, rural carrier, clerk, supervisor and postmaster.

She is the daughter of Erma Jean Cooper and the late Orville Cooper of Samson and resides in Samson

with her husband, Billy Linton, who is the unit administrator for the Alabama National Guard. Their children are Lori and Hank Gilmore of Samson, Chris and Carl Linton of Samson and Jody Linton of Dothan. The Lintons also have three grandchildren, Chase and Lorin Gilmore and Connor Linton. "My door is always open to the people of Elba and I look forward to serving as your Postmaster," said Linton.

Elba COC plans 2nd Annual Sausage Festival for May 13

The Elba Chamber of Commerce will sponsor the 2nd Annual Old Time County Fair and Sausage Festival on May 13 at Tiger Stadium on the campus of the Elba School System. The day's activities will begin around 10 a.m. and continue throughout the afternoon. There

will be plenty of fun and games for the whole family, children's activities, children's competitions, live entertainment, arts and crafts, concessions and lots more. Tickets will be sold at the gate only. Everyone is invited to join the fun.

Wiregrass United Way announces availability of 2000 Venture Grants

The Wiregrass United Way has announced the availability of year 2000 Venture Grants for organizations and agencies serving residents in Coffee, Dale, Geneva and Henry counties.

Wiregrass United Way venture grants are one-time grants for special expenditures not included in the regular budget. Equipment and program supplies are examples of such expenditures. Any not-for-profit agency or organization, or government entity with Coffee, Dale, Geneva or Henry County citizen's participation may be eligible to apply.

The Volunteer Allocations Committee for Coffee, Dale, Geneva and Henry counties will award venture grants. Applications will be received and considered in May with decisions to be made in May. Award decisions will be announced in June. Actual distribution of venture grants will not begin until July.

Agencies and organizations interested in applying may obtain the application packet by contacting Connie Pate, area manager for Coffee and Geneva counties, at the Wiregrass United Way office in Enterprise at 393-1072; Danny Tarter, area manager for Dale County, at the Wiregrass United Way office in Ozark at 774-3319; or Sam Jones, allocations committee chair for Henry County, at the Wiregrass United Way office in Dothan at 792-9661. Applications will be accepted through Friday, April 28.

Legislative Breakfast to be held at Elba First Baptist Church on Friday

The Elba Chamber of Commerce will host a Legislative Breakfast on Friday (TOMORROW), April 14, at 7 a.m. at Elba First Baptist Church. State Representative Terry Spicer will be the speaker. For more information, call the chamber office at 897-3125.

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Bridal Shower



The Elba Clipper

Volume 103, Number 45

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama Thursday, April 20, 2000

1 Section, 12 Pages Plus 1 Adv. Insert

JUDGE RULES FORMER JPO IS COUNTY EMPLOYEE

\$1.5 million lawsuit against county pending

by Marvin McLwain, Editor

The way has been cleared for a \$1.5 million lawsuit against the Coffee County Commission to proceed.

The lawsuit was filed early in 1999 by former juvenile probation officer (JPO) Eva McGrath-Love. She was fired from her job as a JPO in November of 1998 by District Judge Steven Blair who presides over both the district court and juvenile court.

It is the contention of the lawsuit that McGrath-Love was not given a grievance hearing before the county commission following her dismissal by Judge Blair.

Judge Blair had fired McGrath-Love shortly after a state audit revealed a shortage in office funds totaling approximately \$1,500. At

first, she was relieved of her duties as chief juvenile probation officer and later terminated.

No criminal charges were ever filed against McGrath-Love or any other employee of the juvenile probation office in the matter; however, all the funds were recovered or accounted for.

According to Coffee County Commission Chairman Kayo Lewis, McGrath-Love was not granted a hearing before the county personnel board because she was thought to be an employee of the state instead of the county.

McGrath-Love's attorney, Paul Young, contends that she is a county employee and is entitled to due process.

The matter was placed in the courts for a ruling as to whether or not McGrath-Love was an employee

of the state or the county. After all local judges recused themselves from hearing the matter, it was assigned to retired Circuit Judge William R. Gordon, of Montgomery County. Last week he made his ruling in the case.

Judge Gordon ruled that McGrath-Love was in fact an employee of the county because she was employed by the juvenile court and not the district court. He noted that the payroll for the juvenile probation office is handled by the county commission.

In his ruling, the judge further acknowledged the fact that McGrath-Love had been required to sign an acknowledgment of the county's drug-free policy and to consent to further stipulations set forth in the policy. She was also provided a county employee handbook and allowed to participate in the county's group health insurance plan.

Since the judge's ruling, the county commission has instructed its attorney to contact McGrath-Love's attorney and set up a time for a grievance hearing. This comes almost 1-1/2 years after Mrs. McGrath-Love was terminated.

The initial \$1.5 million claim against the county asks that in addition to the money, McGrath-Love be reinstated to her job or given a job with the county with similar pay and benefits.

Linda Westbrook seeking re-election to District 1 seat on Commission

Linda Westbrook formally announces her candidacy for re-election for the District One Seat on the Coffee County Commission.

Westbrook, a life long resident of Coffee County, is a 1963 graduate of Opp High School, attended the University of Montevallo, majoring in education and Troy State University. Her education includes a BS degree and graduate work in accounting and business administration from Troy State University.

She has completed the 50 hour requirement (by law) of newly elected commissioners and will receive certification for completing the 120 hour program with Alabama Local Government Training Institute through Auburn University in June. "I wanted a clear understanding of my position as commissioner ethically and responsibly," Westbrook said. "The courses have been very informative. Road building, Ethics, Economic Development and County Administration & Budgeting are a few of the subjects taught. It took time, but I feel the increased knowledge has enabled me to better serve District One in Coffee County government."

When asked what has been her major contribution the last three and a half years, Westbrook stated, "I believe the formation of the Coffee County Water Authority has



The youngsters at The Young World of Learning Kindergarten & Day Care are all excited about the coming weekend and the prospect of finding that "Golden Egg"

Although hiding and hunting eggs is a common symbol of Easter, there are several early morning Sunrise Services planned by local churches which will offer the people of the area an opportunity to celebrate the most common Christian belief together.

Services are being planned for Sunday, April 23, at the following churches:

6:15 a.m. - A Community-wide Easter Sunrise Service at Westside Baptist Church in Elba.

6:00 a.m. - Bluff Springs Baptist Church in the Bluff Springs Community.

6:00 a.m. - Newbia Baptist Church in the Newbia Community.

6:00 a.m. Mt. Olive Baptist

church in the Pine Level Community.

Good Friday Services will be held at the New Brockton United Methodist Church on Friday, April 21, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

Several events are being planned for April 20 thru April 23 in observance of Holy Week at the Elba United Methodist Church.

Have a safe and happy Easter Celebration!

Disappearance of local teenagers results in the arrest of an Opp man

by Marvin McLwain, Editor

The joint investigation between the Coffee County Sheriff's Department and the 12th Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office has revealed the case of the missing Lamb teenagers was fabricated, and all the details of the event were completely unfounded.

An Opp man, Kenny Lee Bales, 44, of 2563 Hudson Road, has been arrested and charged with two counts of interference with custody.

He was arrested in connection with the disappearance of Ashley Tanay Lamb, 15, and David Adam Lamb, 14, of the Basin Community, parents south of Elba. The two teenagers were reported missing by their parents on March 30 initiating an extensive search of the immediate area by local authorities. The search eventually spread into neighboring counties and into the State of Florida.

The young boy returned home safely on his own on April 6. His sister was located by authorities and returned to her parents on April 8.

David initially told authorities that he believed his sister was in the

Panama City area possibly in the company of a man driving a blue Ford Mustang convertible. Investigators believe the two youngsters were never any further from their home than the neighboring county (Covington).

It is believed that Mr. Bales was instrumental in helping the two youths make up the stories concerning their disappearance. Allegedly, Bales also traveled to Florida and mailed two letters - one from each of the teenagers - to help substantiate their stories.

The investigation revealed that Bales is an acquaintance of the two children's parents; however, the parents had no involvement in the hoax.

Title 13A-6-45 Code of Alabama's definition of Interference of Custody is as follows: "A person commits the crime of interference with custody if he (or she) knowingly takes or entices (1) Any child under the age of 18 from the lawful custody of its parent, guardian or other lawful custodian."

Bales has been released on two (2) \$20,000 bonds following a hearing before District Judge Steven Blair last Thursday.

Kenneth Carnley announces candidacy for Commissioner District Three

Kenneth Carnley officially announced his candidacy for the office of Coffee County Commissioner District Three.

Carnley has been a life long resident of Coffee County being born and raised in the District Three area. He is employed by Carnley Farms and serves on the Coffee County Cattlemen Board of Directors.

Kenneth is married to Dianne Rhodes Carnley, and they have three children, Adrian, Jeremy and Andrea. They also have one daughter-in-law and two grandchildren. The Carnleys are members of Ino Baptist Church.

"I am not running for political status but to serve and represent my neighbors in District Three, as well as, all of Coffee County," said



Carnley. "I believe I can make a difference."

Area Happenings

COUNTY BOE MEETING. The Coffee County Board of Education will hold its monthly meeting, Thursday (TONIGHT), April 20, 2000, at 6:30 p.m. in the board room of the Central Office located in Elba.

COMMISSION MEETING. The Coffee County Commission will hold its bi-monthly meeting Monday, April 24, 2000, at 9 a.m. in the Community Room located in the County Complex in New Brockton, Ala.

D.A.R.E. GRADUATION. The Elba Elementary School's D.A.R.E. program will hold its graduation exercises on Friday, April 28, at 9:00 a.m. in the school's cafeteria. All parents of the graduating D.A.R.E. students are invited to attend the ceremony.

SAUSAGE FESTIVAL. The Elba Chamber of Commerce invites one and all to join the crowd and the fun at Tiger Stadium in Elba on Saturday, May 13, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. for the Second Annual Old Time County Fair and Sausage Festival. There will be plenty of games & activities for the young and the old to include: a tug-of-war contest, a sack race, children's competitions, children's activities, arts and crafts, recipe contests, a car show, etc. A gospel singing will follow the festival beginning at 5 p.m. For more information, contact Kaye Whitworth at the Elba Chamber of Commerce at (334) 897-3125.



Stanley Walker officially enters race for office of circuit clerk

Stanley H. Walker, former principal of New Brockton High School, has officially announced his candidacy for the Office of Circuit Clerk of Coffee County. Walker is seeking the nomination of the Democratic Party in the June 6 primary.

Walker has been a resident of Coffee County since 1975. After spending several years in the field of education in Georgia and Pike County, he came to the Coffee County School System where he spent 23 years as New Brockton before retiring. He and his wife, Sharon, have two children, Sandra, who is the Director of Community Relations for the Winette County Chamber of Commerce in Georgia, and Stan, who practices law in Enterprise. The Walkers attend First Baptist Church of New Brockton where they both teach Sunday School.

"The office of Circuit Clerk touches the life of virtually every citizen of Coffee County," said Walker. "It must provide efficient, courteous and dependable service to the people and organizations it serves. I feel that I am both capable and qualified to fill the position of Circuit Clerk, and I am eager to begin working for the citizens of Coffee County."



Walker said he has always had an interest in community affairs and feels that he can make a contribution to the people of Coffee County by serving as Circuit Clerk. He said that his extensive administrative training and experience would be an asset to this office and ultimately to the people of Coffee County.

Walker pledges that if elected, "He will serve with integrity, fairness and dedication."